



BMP C101

Preserving Natural Vegetation

Why is it important? The purpose of preserving natural vegetation is to reduce erosion wherever practicable. Limiting site disturbance is the single most effective method for reducing erosion. If you keep the soil from eroding, you don't need to deal with the effects of that erosion.

Where should vegetation be preserved? Natural vegetation should be preserved wherever possible but is especially important on steep slopes, near waterways or swales, and on building sites in wooded areas.

How do I do it? First, you need to determine where on the site there is natural vegetation that can be preserved. Install clearly identifiable markings on large trees and fencing outside the drip line of trees and vegetation to be preserved. Vegetation needs to be protected from construction equipment, grade changes due to site development, and excavation.

How do I maintain it? Inspect flagged and/or fenced areas regularly to make sure flagging or fencing has not been removed or damaged. If the flagging or fencing has been damaged or visibility reduced, it shall be repaired or replaced immediately and visibility restored.

If tree roots have been exposed or injured, "prune" cleanly with an appropriate pruning saw or loppers directly above the damaged roots and recover with native soils. Treatment of sap flowing trees (fir, hemlock, pine, soft maples) is not advised as sap forms a natural healing barrier.